AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A system (10) and method are provided for restoring the flow of a data stream in the event of a link (28) failure while avoiding delays due to down time. The system (10) for passing the data stream at a particular transmission rate includes a first unit (20, 22) at the first location coupled to one end of each of a plurality of links (28), at least two trained links (28) selected from the links (28) that are set to active status, a second unit (22, 20) at the second location coupled to the other end of each of the links (28), and at least one idle link (28), wherein the first unit (20, 22) and the second unit (22, 20) switch to use the idle link (28) to replace any one of the trained links (28) that has failed.